Sunday Worship Schedule

10:00 AM

May 4th:
“The Courage to Create”
By James Galasinski
This sermon examines some of the different ways of being creative and explores the close ties between creativity and spirituality. Living a creative life is not just about learning a craft. It is about making authentic choices that make us who we are.

May 11th: (Mother’s Day)
“Mother Knows Best”
By Sura Gail Tala

May 18th:
To Be Announced
By Jessica Carter

May 25th:
“The Buddha: On Freeing Ourselves from Consuming Needs”
By Richard Lewis

Slowly but surely, the weather is warming up and spring is in the air. The smell of fresh cut grass is like a balm to me, filling my head with thoughts of summers long past, playing baseball all day and chasing lightning bugs at night. For now, though, thoughts are of the present and preparations for the new church fiscal year that begins in July.

Just a moment to look back on the lovely church dinner that we shared with one another in early April. What a joyful celebration on a beautiful evening, with great food, camaraderie and entertainment. I especially enjoyed the Feldts’ “talk show” theme and the relaxed atmosphere that approach brought to the event. The new twist of raffling goods and services introduced fresh excitement and demonstrated once again the boundless creativity that springs forth from our members. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in making the dinner such a successful event. And to top it off, I am happy to report that the proceeds from the event netted over $300 for the church. Way to go, fellow members!

While we’re passing out accolades, we most certainly must recognize Marilyn Ragland and her dedicated crew of workers that have just completed another season of PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). The program to provide shelter for the homeless in the south suburbs has been going on for over twenty years and during that time, UUCC has a played an integral role in maintaining a warm site with food for all during the fall and winter months.

Very important notice: mark your calendars for the Annual Membership Meeting that will be taking place at around 11:45 after the service on Sunday, May 18th. At this meeting the membership will be asked to approve a new budget for the coming year and also to elect the officers and two board members. I hope you will make plans to participate in this important meeting.

In closing, I’d like to thank all who made financial pledges to UUCC this year during our “In Our Hands” Pledge Drive. Your generosity will ensure that we are able to continue on with our efforts to provide services to ourselves and others through our liberal religious community. Rich Treptow and his band of canvassers are certainly deserving of recognition for their efforts to reach out to our entire community of members and friends. Thank you all very much!

~Bruce

"You are as welcome as the flowers in May."
- Charles Macklin
May 4th: Community Sunday: No Forum.

May 11th: Care of the Earth: "The Reject and Protect Rally" in Washington DC by Andy Stevens.

May 18th: Annual Congregational Meeting: No Forum

May 25th: Memorial Day Weekend: No Forum

The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting held on April 15th:

- Miracle Center Church paid UUCC $500 for the use of the church on Sunday afternoons during the month of April.

- UUCC netted $326 from the church dinner and raffle on April 5th.

- A motion was passed to allow the Nominating Committee to re-arrange the slate of candidates for positions on the Board of Trustees in order to bring us back into alignment with the yearly schedule as required by the UUCC Bylaws.

- The next meeting of the board is scheduled for May 13th.

The Fellowship Dinner Success!!

Our annual Fellowship Dinner held on April 5th was a tremendous success! We had over 80 people in attendance, with great food, good friends, a fun raffle and a memorable program. Thanks go out to everyone who helped to make the evening so special.

Preparations included contributions from dozens of people; for publicity, mailings, signups, menu planning, decorations, donations to the raffle, coordination of the raffle, set-up/clean-up, as well as the creation and presentation of a marvelous program.

Everyone who participated is to be congratulated. Your efforts are truly appreciated and you deserve to take a bow! Once again, thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Pat Segner & Nancy Irons
Dinner Coordinators

Please Help us Promote UUCC!

Check out our Facebook Fan Page and click “Like” to join! Then “SHARE” posts with YOUR facebook friends. This will spread the word about our church and what we offer. THANKS! If you need help, feel free to call Diane and she will be happy to talk you thru the process.
Free Movie & Discussion
“War on Whistleblowers”
Friday, May 23rd, 7:00pm

War on Whistleblowers looks at four whistleblowers (before Edward Snowden) who had their lives practically destroyed after they went to the press with evidence of government wrongdoing. How should our government handle whistle blowing? Join in the lively discussion following this film.

2013 67 minutes.

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn.
Invite friends!
Optional: Bring a snack to share.
Optional donations accepted.

Note: Movie Nights have been changed to the third Friday night of the month
Pot-luck dinners before the movie have been discontinued.

Free Healthy Living Group
Second Thursday of the month at 1pm
12:00 Optional bring your own brown bag lunch
1:00-2:00 Topic

May 8th, 2014: Meditation, led by Lynn Lidbury and Beverly Feldt

We all want to be happy and healthy. So let’s share our knowledge and experience and the wisdom of experts, to help each other and ourselves in our ongoing quest for health and happiness. We are starting a new open group, meeting once each month, focusing on a health related topic, sometimes with a volunteer guest speaker, sometimes with demonstrations, and hopefully always with sharing respect, and mutual support among participants.

Free tea and coffee
Optional: Bring a snack to share.
Join in the discussion. Invite friends!

Starting in June we will stop the 12:00 bring your own brown bag lunch.
It’s time for Spring Cleaning & Fund Raising!
(for ongoing window replacement project)
We are looking for donations to help us stock our sales booth at “Grampa’s Garage Sale” in Homewood located in the Lions Club Pool Parking Lot.
1041 Ridge Road, Homewood
Saturday, May 10th 9am-2pm Rain or shine!

Some items we need include: Sporting goods, tools, VHS/DVDs, jewelry, small household items, small furniture, special clothing, purses, shoes (basically anything that will sell at a garage sale). Call Dorea if you have anything you would like to donate. 708-715-2312
Pick up service is available. There is also a box in the gathering room for small items.

Does anyone have any pop-up awnings or canopies for us to borrow for the Garage Sale to provide shade and shelter in case of rain? If so, please call Dorea at 708-715-2312.

New Adult RE Class
Starting May 10th
There are many paths towards spiritual development. Come join us as we explore how the mind, body, spirit and justice can lead to avenues of spiritual growth. We’ll be using an adult-oriented curriculum written by the Unitarian Universalist Association. The workshop will be 90 minutes long and meet once a week for 5 weeks. It will start on May 10th from 10:30 to noon. Please email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com for further information and to sign up.

Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly
MUUSA is the annual Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly held in Potosi, Missouri. This year camp runs from June 29th until July 5th!
To learn more about MUUSA you can visit muusa.org. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Plett at margaretplett@gmail.com.

Our UU sermons posted on our website and on Facebook.
Thanks to Chris Ussery and with help from Andy Stevens, we are now beginning to post a few of our audio versions of our Sunday sermons on our website and on our Facebook page! If you would like to hear or share them and need help downloading the links, just call the office and Diane will be happy to help you.
Happy May, everyone. Please feel free to join the RE kids and Nancy Irons at the Maypole that will be in the back of the parking lot on May 4 during Community Sunday.

It's great when the children have a chance to interact with other people in the congregation. I'm renewing my invitation to anyone who has a special interest that they would like to share with the kids: come teach a 45-minute class. You can be creative on how you want to structure it.

We also need some people from the congregation who would be willing to be part of our final class project. We're producing a video consisting of interviews with questions that are based on the Affirmation of Faith. For example, “How do you see love connecting members of this church community together?” So come join the fun and be interviewed by our budding Ray and Rachel Maddows. It's lights, camera, action! manned by our RE children.

There are also plans in the works for an Explorer Club this summer. This will be a week-long camp, similar to vacation Bible camps offered by other churches. However, it will have a decidedly UU spin. It will explore the environment, cooperation and the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. The plan is for it to happen in August, before regular school starts up again. One way other churches advertise their camps is to walk in parades and hand out information cards. So I'm looking for a few people who would walk under a UUCC banner in the upcoming Fourth of July parades as a chance for people to learn about our church and the things that we offer, including our Explorer Club.

Our adult World’s Religions class is off to good start. It’s not too late to join in. And the Exploring Spirituality class is beginning on May 10. Please see me if you are interested in either one.

~Dan Feldt

**Summer Vacation FUN for SINGLE ADULTS**

You are invited to attend a FUN VACATION for SINGLE ADULTS. Two week long vacations are sponsored by AMUUSE (Adult Midwest UU Singles Enrichment) this summer:

**Trustin, Michigan: July 13-19, 2014 and August 24-30, 2014**

Mornings at AMUUSE weeks offer you the opportunity to truly connect with a small group of single adults with similar interests in a week-long group interacting on various topics. Afternoons are open for a wide range of activities (recreational, social, crafts) parties, campfires or a camp show, followed by high-energy dancing, hanging out at the informal hospitality area or other activities of your choice.

If this sounds to you like the adventure of a lifetime, you are right!
Contact: Gwen Valore, President, 740-363-4630 or Sharon Spencer, Registrar, 847-816-3356
Rainbow Cafe is a social event that provides a safe and welcoming environment for single or partnered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults and their allies, by creating a space where they are able to socialize outside of the usual bars.

The Cafe is open every 3rd Friday of the month from 6:30-10:30 pm. More info: Call Dave Matteson 708-672-8837 or (714) 930-6134.

**RAINBOW CAFÉ will meet on May 16th at 6:30pm**

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**A Moment in Balance**

**Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen**  
**Monday and Thurs**  
**9:30am – 11am**  
**Wednesday evenings**  
**7:00pm – 8:30pm**

No reservations needed. Drop-in fee is $10 per class and the 6th one is FREE.

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**Free Healthy Living Group**

2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00pm  
12:00 Optional bring your own brown bag lunch  
1-2pm Topic  
**May 8th - “Meditation”**  
By Lynn Lidbury & Bev Feldt

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**Dances of Universal Peace:**  
3rd Saturday of the month.

Dances of Universal Peace are held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 2-4pm at UUCC. We join our voices in singing sacred phrases and Divine Names from many spiritual traditions while moving in circle dances and walking meditations. For more information contact certified dance leader, Pat Segner, at 708-748-2217.

**Next Dances of UP:** May 17th 2PM

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**Buddhist Meditation**

Learn and enjoy the simple, straight-forward practice of meditation. Please join us for sitting and walking meditation in the Zen and Theravadan Buddhist traditions. This is an ongoing event led by Steve McCabe and Beverly Feldt.

**When:** Saturdays at 9am to 10:30am  
**Location:** UUCC  
**Cost:** Free Will offering, (proceeds go to UUCC)  
**Contact:** For questions, contact Steve McCabe (708) 465-3116 or Beverly Feldt bevfeldt@gmail.com

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**The World’s Religions**

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm

This program is organized around a study guide developed by the UUA that uses the writings of Huston Smith as source material. The religions considered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions.

For fifteen years Huston Smith was Professor of Philosophy at M.I.T. and for a decade before that he taught at Washington University in St. Louis.

For further info email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com or call 708-481-5339.

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**Sacred Communication Workshop**

May 31st @1pm

These Transformative Workshops will help you in identifying and dissolving mental and emotional blockages, learning to use your authentic voice, defining authentic friendships, and more. For more information, call Rev. Henrietta Byrd: 312-593-4732.

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**Choir Rehearsals**

Join the UUCC choir! Practice is on Sunday mornings. Please email Beverly Feldt at bevfeldt@gmail.com.

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**Adult RE Class**  
Starting May 10th

Meets every Saturday for 5 weeks from 10:30 till Noon. For more info, email Dan at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com.
Can you convert VHS to DVD??

Do you have a setup that would allow you to convert VHS tapes into DVDs? The church has several recordings of events, parties, and Sunday services that are currently on VHS tape. While that medium is not quite extinct, it is clearly well on the way out. We would like to preserve these recordings on DVDs without the $25-$30 charge per tape that most processors want.

Can you help? Please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com or 708-712-3228) for more information.
Are We Prepared For Climate Change?

My parents used to own a cabin on the Mississippi river for about 20 years. There were many summers spent just viewing the water, wildlife, and surrounding woods living in their humble abode. One thing they were well aware of was flooding from the “Mighty Mississip.” Their cabin was at ground level and was flooded several times during their ownership. My mother was frustrated with the process and said “Either change the cabin or we move.”

My father and his brother built a 13 foot wall under the cabin getting it off the ground safe from the river. There was preparation needed to get ready for the next flood, but the cabin was safe from harm. What was different about the next flood was that there were high winds with this one. There were also cabins not prepared to be out of harm’s way. The high winds just did in the cabins on the ground and they were ruined structurally. The Army Corps of Engineers was looking to claim back the area from leasing land and would not allow the cabins to be repaired. They lost their cabins to use forever.

So here you have a reality that is very obvious and yet people don’t do the work to preserve their way of life. In climate change, it is not obvious yet to a lot of people. I sometimes wonder myself if climate change has affected some of the weather we are experiencing. I got my wakeup call with an article in the Frankfort Patch that comes out as an email newspaper.

An insurance company is suing Will County and several towns for inadequate preparation for flooding. "During the past 40 years, climate change in Will County has caused rains to be of greater volume, greater intensity and greater duration than pre-1970 rainfall history evidenced, rendering the rainfall frequency return tables ... inaccurate and obsolete," the suit said. [link to the article]

You can tell that they have the records to show that rainfall has increased for our area of Illinois.

Are we ready at the town level and are you ready at the home level?
A Celebration of Life for Edgar Peara will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene, OR at 1685 13th Ave on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers please make contributions to UU Church in Eugene, Unity of the Valley, Nearby Nature, The Village School, Red Cross of Lane County, CALC, Friends of Buford Park, or Friends of Hendricks Park in his name. He will be missed by all who knew him, especially by his children, ten grandchildren, two nieces, one nephew, one surviving cousin and their families.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay
WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

The UUs of Napa, California proudly announce the ninth season of Wine Country Excursions. There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma valleys, e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries, visits to art galleries and museums, exploring the natural beauty of hills and valleys, etc. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in member’s homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day “Wine Country Excursion,” (a guided, personalized tour conducted by one or our members—some with wine industry experience) or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 708-363-7552 or barrie001@comcast.net

Chalice Sparx UU Family Camp
At Ronora Lodge & Retreat Center in Watervliet, Michigan
July 10-15, 2014

- With programs for children drawing upon the natural environment
- Workshops for adults on spiritual practices
- Multigenerational activities for fun and building friendships
- Communal worship experiences for families and people of all ages
- Variety of accommodations from tent camping to dormitory-style or private rooms in one of the buildings
- Children age 7 and under attend FREE with an adult or guardian
- 350 acre nature preserve with secluded private lake, acres of wood, wildlife, pristine pastures and miles of nature trails

Visit www.chalicesparx.org for more details and to register for the new camp for UU families located in south-western Michigan. For more info: Contact Michelle Richards, CRE richards.michelle@frontier.com.
Member Musings

Reflections on Nametags
by Nancy Irons

Why should I wear a nametag? Everyone I know already knows me!
But what about those who don’t know you yet?
What about visitors?

Wearing a nametag provides others with your name without a formal introduction. This makes it easier to approach you, to start a conversation with you and ultimately to remember you. I believe it is important that we strive to be memorable; that we strive to be open and welcoming. The more we make ourselves available to visitors, with a smile or casual conversation, the more welcoming we are seen to be. This can only enhance the experience for our visitors.

I am a longtime member of this church. I first started coming as a kid back 1963 when David Bumbaugh was the new minister. My father and I came regularly for the next decade or so. Then I was off to college and a decade or so in New England. When I returned to the south suburbs in 1989, I joined UUCC as a way to connect with people who share my liberal values. After nearly two decades as an active member, I moved to the north suburbs to help care for my aging parents. I was away for 6 years during which time I was a member at North Shore Unitarian. However, UUCC remained my primary religious affiliation, with friendships and connections that were strong and memorable.

When I returned to UUCC in 2012, I was welcomed back by many long-time friends; however there were perhaps a quarter of the members “new” to the church since I had previously attended. While I have gotten to know many of these “new” members; there are several whose names I still don’t know . . . Perhaps I need to be more outgoing in initiating conversations with these individuals. However, it seems to me that this is a two-way responsibility. The current members also have a responsibility to meet and greet “new” people. As a returning member, I have had the advantage of already knowing many friends here. If I was truly a “new” person, I’m not sure how I would have fared. Last week during our closing circle, I looked around and saw far less than half of those present were wearing nametags. I would like to see this change. I urge everyone to make a conscious effort to wear your nametags and be welcoming to those you do not yet know. If you have left your nametag at home, there are always peel and stick ones available at the Greeter’s table. If your nametag is falling apart or is missing, then please leave a note for Diane, in her mailbox near the office, requesting a new nametag. Look for your new nametag on the nametag board. So please, let’s all revive the habit of wearing our nametags, not just for me, but for the good of our congregation. It is a way of reassuring visitors that this is a friendly place and that we would like to talk to them. Thank you for your cooperation.

~Nancy
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
PHONE: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: diane@uuccpf.org
Web: www.uuccpf.org

Office Administrator
Diane O’Connor
Office Hours:
M, W, F 10:30am - 3:30pm

(Please note from time to time some office hours vary)

Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

*You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your newsletter or receiving it electronically via email.

Visit us on the web @ www.uuccpf.org